BlueCross BlueShield Federal Employee Program

TALTZ
(ixekizumab)

RATIONALE FOR INCLUSION IN PA PROGRAM

Background

Taltz (ixekizumab) is a subcutaneous injectable treatment form that helps regulate inflammation. Taltz is an antibody that binds to interleukin 17A (IL-17A) a protein involved in inflammation. Taltz binds to IL-17A and prevents it from binding to its receptor inhibiting its ability to trigger the inflammatory response that plays a role in the development of plaque psoriasis (PsO), psoriatic arthritis (PsA), ankylosing spondylitis (AS) and non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis (nr-axSpA) (1).

Regulatory Status

FDA-approved indications: Taltz is a humanized interleukin-17A antagonist indicated for the treatment of: (1)

1. Patients aged 6 years or older with moderate-to-severe plaque psoriasis who are candidates for systemic therapy or phototherapy
2. Adults with active psoriatic arthritis
3. Adults with active ankylosing spondylitis
4. Adults with active non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis with objective signs of inflammation

Patients should be evaluated for tuberculosis infection prior to initiating treatment with Taltz. Do not administer Taltz to patients with active tuberculosis. Initiate treatment of latent tuberculosis prior to administering Taltz. Consider anti-tuberculosis therapy prior to initiation of Taltz in patients with a past history of latent or active tuberculosis in whom an adequate course of treatment cannot be confirmed. Patients receiving Taltz should be monitored closely for signs and symptoms of active tuberculosis during and after treatment (1).

Taltz affects the immune system, thus patients may have a greater risk of getting an infection. Serious allergic reactions have been reported with the use of Taltz. Caution should be exercised when considering the use of Taltz in patients with a chronic infection or history of recurrent infection, and in patients with active Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis (1).

Patients treated with Taltz should not receive live vaccines (1).

Safety and effectiveness of Taltz in pediatric patients less than 6 years of age with plaque psoriasis (PsO) have not been established (1).

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Safety and effectiveness of Taltz in pediatric patients less than 18 years of age with psoriatic arthritis (PsA), ankylosing spondylitis (AS), or non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis (nr-axSpA) have not been established (1).

Summary

Taltz (ixekizumab) is a subcutaneous injectable treatment that helps regulate inflammation. Taltz is an antibody that binds to interleukin 17A (IL-17A) a protein involved in inflammation. Taltz binds to IL-17A and prevents it from binding to its receptor inhibiting its ability to trigger the inflammatory response that plays a role in the development of plaque psoriasis (PsO), psoriatic arthritis (PsA), ankylosing spondylitis (AS) and non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis (nr-axSpA. Taltz affects the immune system, thus patients may have a greater risk of getting an infection. Serious allergic reactions have been reported with the use of Taltz. Caution should be exercised when considering the use of Taltz in patients with a chronic infection or history of recurrent infection, and in patients with active Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis. Taltz should not be used in combination with other biologic or targeted synthetic DMARDs or be given concurrently with live vaccines (1).

Prior approval is required to ensure the safe, clinically appropriate, and cost-effective use of Taltz while maintaining optimal therapeutic outcomes.

References

1. Taltz [package insert]. Indianapolis, IN: Eli Lilly and Company; August 2024.